



**ELECTION** 2014

*it's your choice*

**A voter's guide for NBFL members**



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Sisters and Brothers,

On September 22, New Brunswickers will go to the polls to elect their provincial government. For the next four years, this government will pass legislations and make decisions that will impact the daily lives of workers, their families and our communities.

As a labour movement, we cannot ignore politics because politics does not ignore us. To that effect, the NBFL has sent a questionnaire on our issues to all registered political parties. We did not receive any response from the People's Alliance of New Brunswick. You will find the answers from the four (4) other Political Parties in the enclosed booklet. We also encourage you to consult the Parties' platforms and questions the candidates during the election campaign.

Together, we can make New Brunswick a better place for workers, for our families and our communities, so please go out and vote on September 22!

In Solidarity,

Patrick Colford, President  
NBFL



# First contract Legislation

**QUESTION:** *If elected, will you enact First Contract Legislation?*

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## PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Did not make any commitment to First Contract Legislation.

They did mention that Premier Alward has always worked closely with New Brunswick's unions, they are committed to the bargaining process and look forward to that continued mutual working relationship.



## LIBERAL PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

We are committed to sitting down with the NBFL to discuss First Contract Legislation and they will review legislation in other provinces to ensure fairness and balance between employees and employers.

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#### **NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

The NDP will introduce first contract legislation.

#### **GREEN PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

The Green Party would enact First Contract legislation. The entire constitutional right to be represented by a labour union is undermined by the lack of legislation to compel employers to negotiate a first collective agreement, and in good faith.



## Public services

**QUESTIONS:** *If elected, will you bring public-private partnerships projects? Will you make any cuts to public services? Will you privatize the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation or any other Crown Corporations?*

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### PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

New Brunswickers should always get the best value for their tax dollars. When assessing new projects, public-private partnerships must always be an option if it is in the best interest of the project and value for tax payers.

The New Brunswick Liquor Corporation delivers an excellent service to the province and is focused on delivering a well regulated product with great returns to the taxpayer.

A PC Government will continue to ensure that New Brunswickers get the best social and monetary return from their Crown Corporations.



### LIBERAL PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

They disagree with the across the board cuts to the public service. They will invest in government services that will help improve the province's economic outlook such as education, skills development and training and infrastructure. They will consult with government workers who deliver important public services. They have no specific plans for public private partnerships but will be doing a strategic review to ensure government investments in everything including infrastructure are providing taxpayers with the best value.

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#### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The NDP values public services and will keep public services public.

The NDP will eliminate political interference in road decisions. The NDP does not believe we should privatize NB Liquor. They plan to convert 49% of the earnings of NB Liquor into an income trust will guarantee that the corporation remains in public hands and protect union jobs, while also giving NB Liquor employees preference in buying income units

#### GREEN PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Green Party supports the direct public ownership of critical infrastructure and would not pursue public-private partnerships to provide such infrastructure. Public services should be provided by the public sector and be delivered equitably in both rural and urban communities. The New Brunswick Liquor Corporation provides much needed revenue to the provincial government, so the Green Party sees it as a valuable provincial asset which provides good paying jobs and would not privatize it.





# Workplace health, safety and compensation

**QUESTIONS:** *If elected, will you hire more compliance officers and have better enforcement policies and stricter penalties for employers that do not follow the law? Will you eliminate the three day waiting period? Will you include bullying and violence in the workplace to the Occupational Health and Safety Act?*

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## PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

New Brunswick has excellent workplace health and safety laws and dedicated compliance officers. Premier Alward knows that as a province one accident or one fatality that could have been avoided is too many. As a government we must always be looking for ways to improve upon our existing legislation to protect workers and enforce the legislation we do have to ensure the safest workplace possible.

The workplace should have no room for bullying or violence. They are more than willing to discuss the best and most effective ways to eliminate bullying or violence in the workplace.



## LIBERAL PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

We agree that more needs to be done to keep our workers healthy, safe and alive. If elected we will sit down with the NBFL to go over some of the specific concerns, including the 3 day waiting period and better enforcement and stricter penalties to those employers who put their employees at risk. We will also take a best practices approach to bullying in the workplace and review recent legislative changes in other provinces with an eye to improving our Occupational Health and Safety Act.



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#### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The NDP supports the various proposals by the NBFL to make workplaces safer.

#### GREEN PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Green Party would eliminate the three day waiting period for injured workers. It is simply unjust. We would place a high emphasis on workplace safety and health. As for violence in the workplace, one of our core values is to foster a culture of peace which would certainly extend to our approach to regulation of the workplace.





# Health Care

**QUESTIONS:** *If elected, will all aspect of our health care system remain public?  
Will you take a strong stance on the renewal of the Health Care Accord?*

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## PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

New Brunswick's health care professionals deliver an excellent product for the people of our province. Premier Alward is fully committed to New Brunswick's public health care system but realizes that as a province we need to ensure that every dollar is spent where it is most beneficial. They launched the New Brunswick Drug Program which will ensure every New Brunswickers will have prescription drug coverage regardless of their ability to pay and at a price the province can afford.

Premier Alward has launched a primary health care plan that will guide government decisions into the future. Additionally, Premier Alward has been working with his provincial and territorial counter parts to ensure that federal transfers are fair and equitable



## LIBERAL PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Under a Liberal government our health care system will remain public. They are very concern about the renewal of the Health Care Accord and will fight hard against the Harper government's efforts to impose a new formula on New Brunswickers and reach out to the government in Ottawa now and in the future following the next federal election.

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#### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

We support the efforts of the federal NDP to renew the Health Care Accord, and oppose the across board recent cuts made by the Alward government to health care.

#### GREEN PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Green Party is committed to expanding the role of public health care not simply maintaining the status quo, so that it includes coverage for things such as midwifery and reproductive health services. With respect to the Canada Health Transfers, the current federal plan is unjust. We would form a common front with the other Atlantic provinces and Quebec to press for an adjustment to the Canada Health Transfers that reflect the higher health care needs that come with an older population.



# Progressive Tax system

**QUESTIONS:** *If elected, will you revert back the income and corporate tax rates of 2008?  
Will you add a tax bracket of 21% for those who earn more than \$150 000?*

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## PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

All tax brackets and credits will continue to be indexed. In addition, the enhancements to the Low-Income Tax Reduction that were announced in 2009 will continue in the interest of helping protect lower-income New Brunswickers from the tax rate changes.



## LIBERAL PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Everyone needs to pay their fair share of taxes. They adopted a resolution recognizing that a progressive income tax system is built upon the fundamental concept that those who can pay more, do pay more and resolved to introduce a new fifth tax bracket for the very wealthy.

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#### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The NDP will look for efficiencies before asking New Brunswickers to pay more. Instead, the NDP will eliminate wasteful spending on corporate welfare, cut the size of cabinet, harmonize government departments, and reverse business property tax cuts.



#### GREEN PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Green Party policy is to institute pre-2008 levels of corporate and income taxes. In fact we want to see corporate taxes maintained at a common level across the Maritimes. Our platform will include a commitment to add an additional tax bracket for those earning more than \$150,000.

# Pay Equity

**QUESTIONS:** *Will you enact pay equity legislation for the private sector? Will you keep the commitment for pay equity in the public sector and in the 5 private sector groups?*

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## PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Alward Government has worked hard to implement pay equity within government, and that effort will continue with employers and employees in remaining job evaluations. Reducing the wage gap and ensuring pay equity in the private sector remains a focus of this government. To help eliminate the wage gap, the Alward government has made a number of resources available to employers so that they a) understand the issue and how it affects their employees; and b) have the knowledge-based resources at hand to help promote pay equity in New Brunswick.



## LIBERAL PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

They will honour the commitment for pay equity in the public sector, including Crown Corporations and five private sector groups. As for the private sector, companies who do business with government will be asked to implement pay equity plans.



#### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The NDP will introduce the Pay Equity Act, based on legislation drafted by the Coalition for Pay Equity and presented to the Legislature by the NDP in 2004. This Act would require employers with ten or more employees to implement a pay equity plan within four years. Compliance would be monitored and enforced by a Pay Equity Commission.

#### GREEN PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Green Party has maintained since 2010 that it will enact pay equity legislation in the private sector, and honour commitments previously made by government.





# Minimum wage and a living wage

**QUESTIONS:** *If elected, when will you increase the minimum wage and will you put in place a time table for future increases? Will you increase the minimum wage to a living wage?*

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## PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Minimum wage increases are not something that the Progressive Conservative Party believes should be put on a calendar and increased solely because the date has arrived. Wages are paid by business owners, organizations and the government alike and must be based upon economic realities.



## LIBERAL PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

At their policy convention in April, their members adopted a resolution to support the Poverty Reduction Strategy and give full effect to its recommendations in order to meet the targets set out in the Strategy



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#### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

We will meet the Poverty Reduction targets for the minimum wage, tying it to the Atlantic average and building in cost-of-living adjustments. We also will look into further options to make sure people can live off of minimum wage.

#### GREEN PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Green Party is committed to transitioning from a minimum wage to a living wage. We would immediately index minimum wage to the rate of inflation and institute phased in increases until we achieve a living wage for New Brunswickers.





## Child Care

**QUESTIONS:** *Will you invest in early learning and child care programs to improve the educational, health and social benefits of children? Will you implement a universal public child care system in New Brunswick?*

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### PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

In total, a minimum of \$38.27 million will be invested to support our early childhood action plan. This plan will increase support for parents and move New Brunswick in the right direction.

\$31.7 million will be invested to support the action plan in 2013-14 and 2014-15.



### LIBERAL PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Their members adopted a resolution to develop a ten year, comprehensive education plan that would cover education from early learning, through primary secondary and post-secondary education and into adult learning. They also adopted a resolution to develop a family policy for the province which would include improved access to lower-cost and higher-quality childcare.

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#### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The NDP will introduce an easy-to-understand and easy-to-afford formula to help families afford high-quality childcare. Because the costs of childcare are hardest to bear if you're working at a low paying job, no parent will lose childcare benefits when they get a job. They prefer a mixed-delivery model for childcare provision, utilizing existing private childcare centres along with public centres, ensuring that all follow provincial standards.

The NDP would establish such a universal system within our first term.

#### GREEN PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Green Party is committed to instituting a universal child care system in our province. As part of this we would expand the Early Childhood Education Centres being piloted in six elementary schools to all regions of the province.



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